AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Prior to further substantive examination, please amend the claims as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule a PRRS virus ~~selected from the group consisting~~ of a PRRS virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, ~~I-1140, I-1387, ECACC V93070108, , ATCC VR 2332, ATCC VR 2385, ATCC VR 2386, ATCC VR 2429, ATCC VR 2474 and ATCC VR 2404,~~ wherein said DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:18 at the 5' end of the sequence of said PRRS virus strain ~~deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, I-1140, I-1387, ECACC V93070108, ATCC VR 2332, ATCC VR 2385, ATCC VR 2386, ATCC VR 2429, ATCC VR 2474 and ATCC VR 2404~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A transfected host cell ~~tranfected~~ transfected with a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a PRRS virus ~~selected from the group consisting~~ of a PRRS virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, ~~I-1140, I-1387, ECACC V93070108, ATCC VR 2332, ATCC VR 2385, ATCC VR 2386, ATCC VR 2429, ATCC VR 2474 and ATCC VR 2404,~~ wherein said DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:18 at the 5' end of the sequence of a PRRS virus strain ~~deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, I-1140, I-1387, ECACC V93070108, ATCC VR 2332, ATCC VR 2385, ATCC VR 2386, ATCC VR 2429, ATCC VR 2474 and ATCC VR 2404,~~ wherein said transfected host cell expresses the encoded PRRS virus.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid in the form of a plasmid comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 21.

25. (Currently Amended) An isolated infectious RNA molecule ~~encoded by an isolated nucleic acid sequence that encodes a~~ based on the full-length genome of PRRS

virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102~~, I-1140, I-1387, ECACC V93070108, ATCC VR 2332, ATCC VR 2385, ATCC VR 2386, ATCC VR 2429, ATCC VR 2474 and ATCC VR 2404~~ generated by a process comprising transfecting a host cell not susceptible to infection with wild-type PRRS virus strain CNCM I-1102 with a recombinant nucleic acid comprising at least one full-length DNA copy of the genome of CNCM I-1102 wherein the recombinant nucleic acid comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:18 at its 5' end and isolating said infectious clone from said transfected host cell.

26. (Currently Amended) A recombinant PRRS virus encoded by an isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA sequence that encodes a PRRS virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, ~~I-1140, I-1387, ECACC V93070108, ATCC VR 2332, ATCC VR 2385, ATCC VR 2386, ATCC VR 2429, ATCC VR 2474 and ATCC VR 2404~~ wherein the nucleic acid comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:18 at its 5' end, wherein presence of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:18 at the 5' end of said PRRS virus strain sequence renders said recombinant PRRS virus infectious wherein said recombinant has a length of at least 15 kb.

27-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA sequence ~~encoding~~ that encodes chimeric virus comprising a genome-length ~~an~~ infectious RNA clone of PRRSV virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102 wherein the chimeric virus expresses the ORF 7 of PRSS strain ATCC VR2332 ~~molecule encoding a North American PRRS virus wherein said DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:24 or a sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO:24 under conditions comprising hybridization to a filter bound DNA in 0.5M NaHPO4 7% SDS, 1mM EDTA at 65°C and washing in 0.1%SSC/0.1%SDS at 68°C~~, wherein said isolated sequence comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:18 at its 5' end.

33. (Previously Presented) The isolated infectious RNA of claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid comprises said recombinant nucleic acid comprises at least one nucleic acid sequence encoding a virulence marker and/or a serological marker particular to said wild-type RNA virus that has been modified by cloning techniques to effect a change in the

virulence and/or a change in the serological immune response to said infectious RNA molecule.

34. (Previously Presented) The isolated infectious RNA of claim 33 wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding a virulence marker and/or serological marker is located within an open reading frame that encodes a structural protein of said virus.

35. (Previously Presented) The isolated infectious RNA of claim 34 wherein said open reading frame is ORF7.

36. (Previously Presented) The isolated infectious RNA of claim 33 wherein said nucleic acid further comprises at least one additional heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

37. (Previously Presented) The isolated infectious RNA of claim 36 wherein said heterologous nucleic acid encodes an antigen for stimulating an immune response in pigs.